(c) Relevance of the concept and its applicability to Indian situation would still have to be studied. There is no time-frame for replication of the concept in India.

Under utilization of allocation for NREGS

1772. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD : Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had budgeted Rs. 14,300 crore last year, to implement the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme in 200 select districts;

(b) whether only about 50 per cent of the budgeted allocation was spent on this account till the end of January 2007, and whether the States have assured utilization of unspent funds before the year closes; and

(c) whether Government would ensure that in future funds allocated for this scheme are evenly spent over the year, whereby targets for utilization are set every quarter, rather than for full one year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) No Sir. The budget allocation was Rs. 11300 crores in 2006-07.

(b) NREGA is a demand driven programme. However upto 12th March, 2007 funds amounting to Rs. 7787.36 crores have been released and the expenditure incurred upto January, 2007 amounts to Rs 6016.11 crores.

(c) NREGA is not target based. Work is to be provided to all households as and when they demand work. Next instalment of funds is considered when 60% of available resources are utilized.

Rehabilitation Scheme for displaced persons

1773. SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK:
DR. VIJAY MALLYA:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the new resettlement scheme to compensate and give relief to the persons displaced on account of the public projects by Government has come into force;

(b) if so, the essential features of the scheme;

(c) the additional financial burden envisaged for implementing the scheme;

(d) whether Government propose to bring in legislation on the subject; and

(e) if so, when would the said legislation be introduced in Parliament?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) to (e) The Department of Land Resources in the Ministry of Rural Development is in the process of drafing a revised resettlement and rehabilitation policy, namely the National Rehabilitation Policy-2007 (NRP-2007), with the objective to minimize displacement and to promote, as far as possible, non-displacing or least-displacing alternative; ensure adequate rehabilitation packages and expeditious implementation of the rehabilitation process with the active participation of affected persons. This policy, once approved and adopted, would replace the current National Policy on Resettlement & Rehabilitation of Project Affected Families-2003 (NPRR-2003).

A draft of the new policy was circulated to States/UTs for their comments and also put in the public domain on the websites of the Department of Land Resources and Ministry of Rural Development and at the Facilitation Counter of the Ministry of Rural Development, Krishi Bhavan for public comments. A Public Notice in this regard was also published in the prominent National and Regional newspapers. Comments from a few States and Ministries/ Departments of GOI as well as a number of public comments have been received, and the draft NRP-2007 is being finalized. The modalities for giving a statutory backing to the policy are also being worked out.

PMGSY in Maharashtra

1774. SHRIMATI SYEDA ANWARA TAIMUR: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the target destinations with population of 250 in hilly, tribal & desert areas are being adequately covered, under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana;